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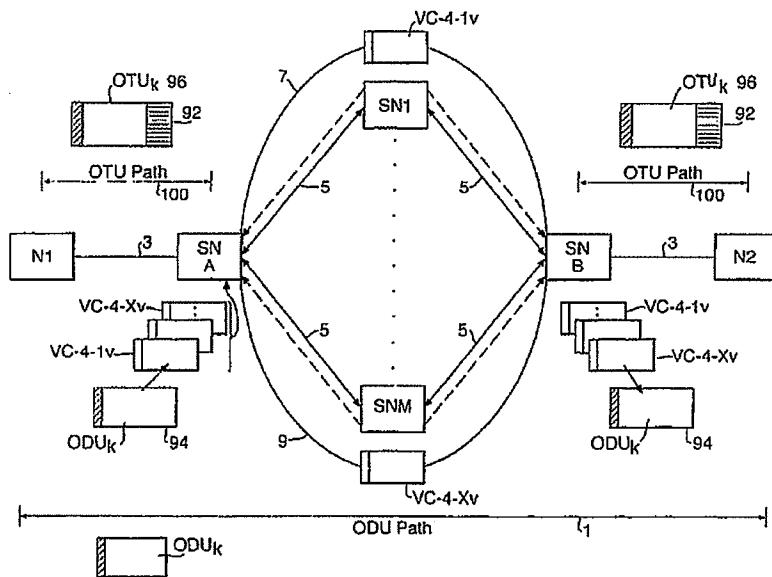
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TUNNELLING DATA IN A NETWORK



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(57) Abstract: A communications network including nodes which permit networks to be tunneled across intermediate networks. The present invention has application, in particular, to SDH networks, SONET and OTN. The content of entities for transportation across an existing network are mapped into a series of subframes and are virtually concatenated across the network. Each subframe is assigned a sequence indicator, which allows the original entity to be assembled at a remote node.